

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Notice of Lodging of Consent Decree Under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act

Under 42 U.S.C. 9622(d)(2) and 28 CFR 50.7, notice is hereby given that on June 15, 2004, a proposed Consent Decree in *United States v. Industrial Excess Landfill, Inc.*, Civil Action Number 5:89-CV-1988 (consolidated with *State of Ohio v. Industrial Excess Landfill, Inc.*, Civil Action Number 5:91-CV-2559), was lodged with the United States District Court for the Northern District of Ohio.

The consent decree resolves claims against five defendants brought by the United States on behalf of the Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") under sections 106 and 107 of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act ("CERCLA"), 42 U.S.C. 9606 and 9607, for response costs incurred and to be incurred by the United States in responding to the release and threatened release of hazardous substances at the Industrial Excess Landfill Superfund Site in Uniontown, Ohio. Under the Consent Decree, the Settling Defendants will perform the remedy for the Site as set forth in the completed Remedial Design for the Site, pay \$17,925,000 (plus interest on this amount running from October 1, 2003) for past costs, and pay all interim and future response costs as defined in the Consent Decree that have been or will be incurred by the United States (subject to a limit of \$700,000 for the portion of future response costs incurred in monitoring and overseeing Settling Defendants' performance of the remedy). The United States covenants not to sue the Settling Defendants regarding the Site, subject to reservations of rights for unknown conditions and information, and other reservations commonly included in CERCLA settlements.

The Department of Justice will receive, for a period of thirty (30) days from the date of this publication, comments relating to the Consent Decree. Comments should be addressed to the Assistant Attorney General, Environment and Natural Resources Division, PO Box 7611, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC 20044-7611, and should refer to *United States v. Industrial Excess Landfill, Inc.*, DOJ Ref. #90-11-3-247A.

The Consent Decree (including all its Appendices A through F) may be examined at the Office of the United States Attorney, Northern District of Ohio, 801 West Superior Avenue, Suite

400, Cleveland, Ohio 44113, and the Region 5 Office of the Environmental Protection Agency, 77 W. Jackson Blvd., Chicago, Illinois 60604. During the public comment period, the Consent Decree and all Appendices may also be examined on the following Department of Justice Web site: <http://www.usdoj.gov/enrd/open.html>. A copy of the Consent Decree may also be obtained by mail from the Consent Decree Library, PO Box 7611, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC 20044-7611, or by faxing or e-mailing a request to Tonia Fleetwood, tonia.fleetwood@usdoj.gov, Fax No. (202) 514-0097, phone confirmation number (202) 514-1547.

The Department of Justice requires payment of reproduction costs (25 cents per page for standard paper sizes) for copies requested from the Consent Decree Library. In requesting a copy of the Consent Decree text only from the Consent Decree Library, please enclose a check in the amount of \$23.75 payable to the U.S. Treasury. To obtain a copy of the text of the Consent Decree and Appendices A through E, which are on standard 8½ by 11 inch paper enclose a check in the amount of \$58.25 payable to the U.S. Treasury. Appendix F to the Consent Decree is the Remedial Design submitted by the Settling Defendants pursuant to a prior Administrative Order. Appendix F includes numerous color and oversize pages that require special services to reproduce. To obtain a paper or CD-ROM copy of Appendix F, please call Ms. Tonia Fleetwood at (202) 514-1547 to discuss reproduction costs and delivery arrangements. Note that in addition to the locations identified above where the Consent Decree is available, the Remedial Design (Appendix F) may also be examined at the Site information repositories located at: (1) Lake Township Clerk's Office, 12360 Market North, Hartville, Ohio 44632, and (2) Hartville Branch Library, 411 East Maple Street, Hartville, Ohio 44632.

W. Benjamin Fisherow,

Deputy Section Chief, Environmental Enforcement Section, Environment and Natural Resources Division.

[FR Doc. 04-14261 Filed 6-22-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4410-15-M

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Notice of Lodging of Consent Decree Pursuant to The Clean Water Act

In accordance with Department policy, 28 CFR 50.7, notice is hereby given that a proposed consent decree in *United States v. City of Lebanon*,

Missouri, Civil Action No. 04-3125-CV-S-RED was lodged on April 12, 2004, with the United States District Court for the Western District of Missouri, Southern Division. This consent decree requires the defendants to pay a civil penalty of \$72,000 and to perform injunctive relief to address permit violations at the City's wastewater treatment plant as well as to address sewage overflows from the City's sewage collection system.

The Department of Justice will receive, for a period of thirty (30) days from the date of this publication, comments relating to the proposed consent decree. Comments should be addressed to the Assistant Attorney General, Environment and Natural Resources Division, P.O. Box 7611, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC 20044-7611, and should refer to *United States v. City of Lebanon, Missouri*, DOJ Ref. 90-5-1-1-06400.

The proposed consent decree may be examined at the office of the United States Attorney, Charles Evans Whittaker Courthouse 400 E. 9th Street, 5th Floor, Kansas City, MO 64106 and at U.S. EPA Region 7, 901 N. 5th Street, Kansas City, Kansas 66101.

During the comment period, the consent decree may be examined on the following Department of Justice Web site, <http://www.usdoj.gov/enrd/open.html>. Copies of the consent decree also may be obtained by mail from the Consent Decree Library, P.O. Box 7611, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC 20044-7611 or by faxing or e-mailing a request to Tonia Fleetwood (tonia.fleetwood@usdoj.gov), fax no. (202) 514-0097, phone confirmation number (202) 514-1547. In requesting a copy, please enclose a check in the amount of \$12.50 for *United States v. City of Lebanon, Missouri*, (25 cents per page reproduction cost) payable to the U.S. Treasury.

Robert Maher,

Assistant Section Chief, Environmental Enforcement Section.

[FR Doc. 04-14262 Filed 6-22-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4410-15-M

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Office of the Secretary

Bureau of International Labor Affairs; Request for Information Concerning Labor Rights in Panama and Its Laws Governing Exploitative Child Labor

AGENCIES: Office of the Secretary, Labor; Office of the United States Trade Representative and Department of State.

ACTION: Request for comments from the public.

SUMMARY: This notice is a request for comments from the public to assist the Secretary of Labor, the United States Trade Representative, and the Secretary of State in preparing reports regarding labor rights in Panama and describing the extent to which it has in effect laws governing exploitative child labor. The Trade Act of 2002 requires reports on these issues and others when the President intends to use trade promotion authority procedures in connection with legislation approving and implementing a trade agreement. The President assigned the functions of preparing reports regarding labor rights and the existence of laws governing exploitative child labor to the Secretary of Labor, in consultation with the Secretary of State and the United States Trade Representative. The Secretary of Labor further assigned these functions to the Secretary of State and the United States Trade Representative, to be carried out by the Secretary of Labor, the Secretary of State and the United States Trade Representative.

DATES: Public comments should be received no later than 5 p.m. August 9, 2004.

ADDRESSES: Persons submitting comments are strongly advised to make such submissions by electronic mail to the following address: FRFTAPanama@dol.gov. Submissions by facsimile may be sent to: Betsy White, Office of International Economic Affairs, Bureau of International Labor Affairs, U.S. Department of Labor, at (202) 693-4851.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For procedural questions regarding the submissions, please contact Betsy White, Office of International Economic Affairs, Bureau of International Labor Affairs, U.S. Department of Labor, at (202) 693-4919, facsimile (202) 693-4851. These are not toll-free numbers. Substantive questions concerning the labor rights report and/or the report on Panama's laws governing exploitative child labor should be addressed to Jorge Perez-Lopez, Office of International Economic Affairs, Bureau of International Labor Affairs, U.S. Department of Labor, 200 Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20210, telephone (202) 693-4883, facsimile (202) 693-4851.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

On November 18, 2003, in accordance with section 2104(a)(1) of the Trade Act of 2002, the United States Trade

Representative (USTR) notified the Congress of the President's intent to enter into free trade negotiations with Panama. The notification letter to the Congress can be found on the USTR Web site at http://www.ustr.gov/new/fta/Panama/2003-11-18-notification_letter.pdf. At a public hearing conducted on March 23, 2004, the interagency Trade Policy Staff Committee (TPSC) received written comments and oral testimony from the public to assist USTR in formulating positions and proposals with respect to all aspects of the negotiations (69 FR 8518) (Feb. 24, 2004). Negotiations were launched on April 26, 2004.

The Trade Act of 2002 (Pub. L. 107-210) (the Trade Act) sets forth special procedures (Trade Promotion Authority) for approval and implementation of Agreements subject to meeting conditions and requirements in Division B of the Trade Act, "Bipartisan Trade Promotion Authority." Section 2102(a)-(c) of the Trade Act includes negotiating objectives and a listing of priorities for the President to promote in order to "address and maintain United States competitiveness in the global economy" in pursuing future trade agreements. The President assigned several of the functions in section 2102(c) to the Secretary of Labor. (E.O. 13277). These include the functions set forth in section 2102(c)(8), which requires that the President "in connection with any trade negotiations entered into under this Act, submit to the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Finance of the Senate a meaningful labor rights report of the country, or countries, with respect to which the President is negotiating," and the function in section 2102(c)(9), which requires that the President "with respect to any trade agreement which the President seeks to implement under trade authorities procedures, submit to the Congress a report describing the extent to which the country or countries that are parties to the agreement have in effect laws governing exploitative child labor."

II. Information Sought

Interested parties are invited to submit written information as specified below to be taken into account in drafting the required reports. Materials submitted should be confined to the specific topics of the reports. In particular, agencies are seeking written submissions on the following topics:

1. Labor laws of Panama, including laws governing exploitative child labor, and that country's implementation and enforcement of its labor laws and regulations;

2. The situation in Panama with respect to core labor standards;

3. Steps taken by Panama to comply with International Labor Organization Convention No. 182 on the worst forms of child labor; and

4. The nature and extent, if any, of exploitative child labor in Panama.

Section 2113(6) of the Trade Act defines "core labor standards" as:

- (A) The right of association;
- (B) The right to organize and bargain collectively;
- (C) A prohibition on the use of any form of forced or compulsory labor;
- (D) A minimum age for the employment of children; and
- (E) Acceptable conditions of work with respect to minimum wages, hours of work, and occupational safety and health.

III. Requirements for Submissions

This document is a request for facts or opinions submitted in response to a general solicitation of comments from the public. To ensure prompt and full consideration of submissions, we strongly recommend that interested persons submit comments by electronic mail to the following e-mail address: FRFTAPanama@dol.gov. Persons making submissions by e-mail should use the following subject line: "Panama: Labor Rights and Child Labor Reports." Documents should be submitted in WordPerfect, MSWord, or text (.TXT) format. Supporting documentation submitted as spreadsheets is acceptable in Quattro Pro or Excel format. Persons who make submissions by e-mail should not provide separate cover letters; information that might appear in a cover letter should be included in the submission itself. Similarly, to the extent possible, any attachments to the submission should be included in the same file as the submission itself, and not as separate files. Written comments will be placed in a file open to public inspection at the Department of Labor, Room S-5317, 200 Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20210, and in the USTR Reading Room in Room 3 of the annex of the Office of the USTR, 1724 F Street, NW., Washington, DC 20508. An appointment to review the file at the Department of Labor may be made by contacting Betsy White at (202) 693-4919. An appointment to review the file at USTR may be made by calling (202) 395-6186. The USTR Reading Room is generally open to the public from 10 a.m.-12 noon and 1-4 p.m., Monday through Friday. Appointments must be scheduled at least 48 hours in advance.

Signed at Washington, DC, this 16 of June 2004.

Martha Newton,

Associate Deputy Under Secretary for International Affairs.

[FR Doc. 04-14165 Filed 6-22-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4510-28-P

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Office of the Secretary

Bureau of International Labor Affairs; Request for Information Concerning Labor Rights in Thailand and Its Laws Governing Exploitative Child Labor

AGENCIES: Office of the Secretary, Labor; Office of the United States Trade Representative and Department of State.

ACTION: Request for comments from the public.

SUMMARY: This notice is a request for comments from the public to assist the Secretary of Labor, the United States Trade Representative, and the Secretary of State in preparing reports regarding labor rights in Thailand and describing the extent to which it has in effect laws governing exploitative child labor. The Trade Act of 2002 requires reports on these issues and others when the President intends to use trade promotion authority procedures in connection with legislation approving and implementing a trade agreement. The President assigned the functions of preparing reports regarding labor rights and the existence of laws governing exploitative child labor to the Secretary of Labor, in consultation with the Secretary of State and the United States Trade Representative. The Secretary of Labor further assigned these functions to the Secretary of State and the United States Trade Representative, to be carried out by the Secretary of Labor, the Secretary of State and the United States Trade Representative.

DATES: Public comments should be received no later than 5 p.m. August 9, 2004.

ADDRESSES: Persons submitting comments are strongly advised to make such submissions by electronic mail to the following address: FRFTAThailand@dol.gov. Submissions by facsimile may be sent to: Betsy White, Office of International Economic Affairs, Bureau of International Labor Affairs, U.S. Department of Labor, at (202) 693-4851.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For procedural questions regarding the submissions, please contact Betsy White, Office of International Economic Affairs, Bureau of International Labor

Affairs, U.S. Department of Labor, at (202) 693-4919, facsimile (202) 693-4851. These are not toll-free numbers. Substantive questions concerning the labor rights report and/or the report on Thailand's laws governing exploitative child labor should be addressed to Jorge Perez-Lopez, Office of International Economic Affairs, Bureau of International Labor Affairs, U.S. Department of Labor, 200 Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20210, telephone (202) 693-4883, facsimile (202) 693-4851.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

On February 12, 2004, in accordance with section 2104(a)(1) of the Trade Act of 2002, the United States Trade Representative (USTR) notified the Congress of the President's intent to enter into free trade negotiations with Thailand. The notification letters to the Congress can be found on the USTR Web site at <http://www.ustr.gov/releases/2004/02/2004-02-12-letter-thailand-house.pdf> and <http://www.ustr.gov/releases/2004/02/2004-02-12-letter-thailand-senate.pdf>, respectively. At a public hearing conducted on March 30, 2004, the interagency Trade Policy Staff Committee (TPSC) received written comments and oral testimony from the public to assist USTR in formulating positions and proposals with respect to all aspects of the negotiations (69 FR 9419) (Feb. 27, 2004). USTR intends to launch the negotiations in June 2004.

The Trade Act of 2002 (Pub. L. 107-210) (the Trade Act) sets forth special procedures (Trade Promotion Authority) for approval and implementation of Agreements subject to meeting conditions and requirements in Division B of the Trade Act, "Bipartisan Trade Promotion Authority." Section 2102(a)-(c) of the Trade Act includes negotiating objectives and a listing of priorities for the President to promote in order to "address and maintain United States competitiveness in the global economy" in pursuing future trade agreements. The President assigned several of the functions in section 2102(c) to the Secretary of Labor. (E.O. 13277). These include the functions set forth in section 2102(c)(8), which requires that the President "in connection with any trade negotiations entered into under this Act, submit to the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Finance of the Senate a meaningful labor rights report of the country, or countries, with respect to which the President is negotiating," and the function in section

2102(c)(9), which requires that the President "with respect to any trade agreement which the President seeks to implement under trade authorities procedures, submit to the Congress a report describing the extent to which the country or countries that are parties to the agreement have in effect laws governing exploitative child labor."

II. Information Sought

Interested parties are invited to submit written information as specified below to be taken into account in drafting the required reports. Materials submitted should be confined to the specific topics of the reports. In particular, agencies are seeking written submissions on the following topics:

1. Labor laws of Thailand, including laws governing exploitative child labor, and that country's implementation and enforcement of its labor laws and regulations;

2. The situation in Thailand with respect to core labor standards;

3. Steps taken by Thailand to comply with International Labor Organization Convention No. 182 on the worst forms of child labor; and

4. The nature and extent, if any, of exploitative child labor in Thailand.

Section 2113(6) of the Trade Act defines "core labor standards" as:

(A) The right of association;

(B) The right to organize and bargain collectively;

(C) A prohibition on the use of any form of forced or compulsory labor;

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